

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A photopolymer printing plate precursor comprising a support, a photosensitive coating and a protective ~~coating~~coating, the photosensitive coating comprising a composition that is photopolymerizable upon absorption of light in the wavelength range from 300 to 450 nm, the composition comprising a binder, a polymerizable compound, a sensitizer and a photoinitiator, and the protective coating comprising one or more types of poly(vinyl alcohol) and optionally poly(vinyl pyrrolidone) in an amount of from 0 to 10 parts by weight of the one or more types of poly(vinyl alcohol), wherein said photoinitiator is a hexaaryl-bisimidazole compound, and wherein the mean saponification degree of all the polyvinylalcohols which are used in the protective coating is ~~less than 93 mol-%~~between 80 and 92.9 mol-%.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the binder is a copolymer containing monomeric units of an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid and/or an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated dicarboxylic acid.

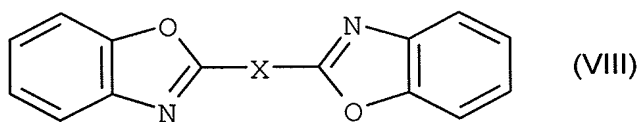
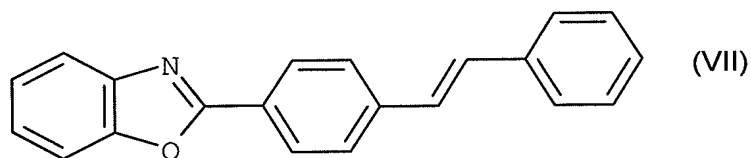
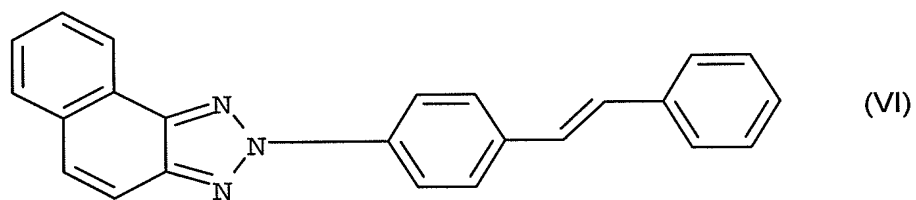
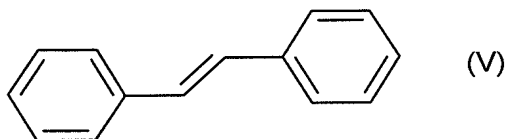
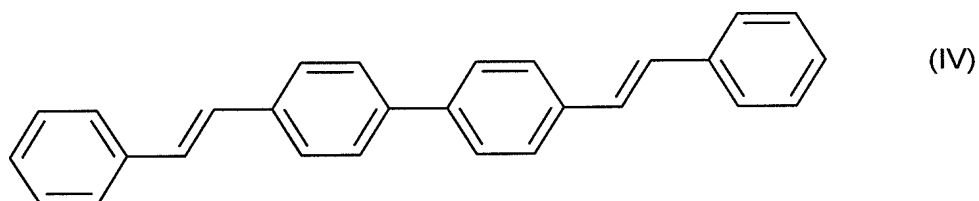
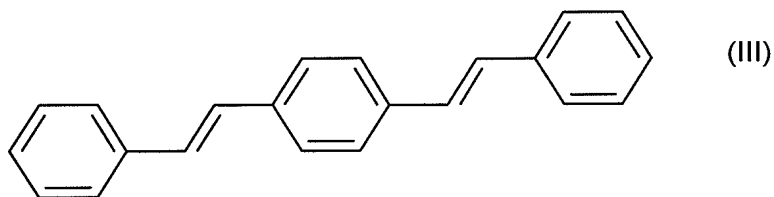
4. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 1, further comprising a polyfunctional (meth)acrylate or alkyl(meth)acrylate compound as a crosslinking agent.

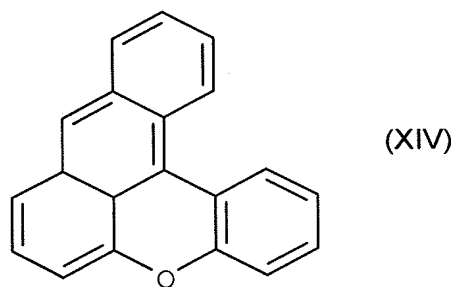
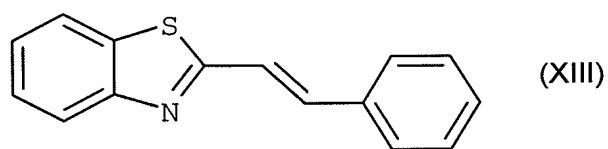
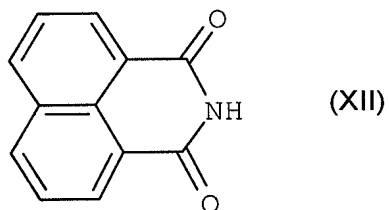
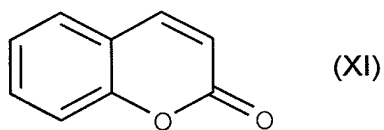
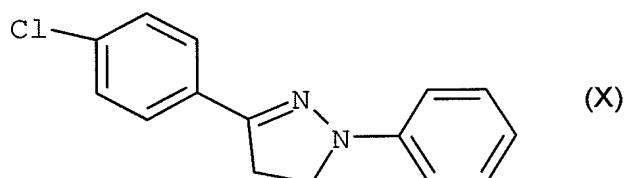
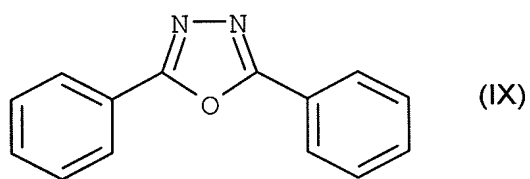
5. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the polymerizable compound comprises one or more of a urethane, a urea group or a tertiary amino group.

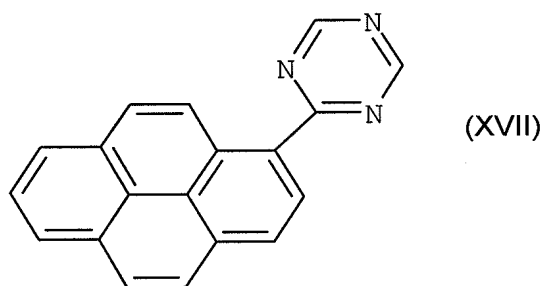
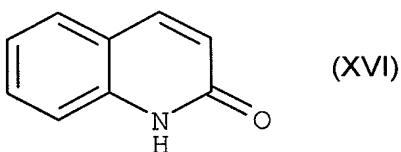
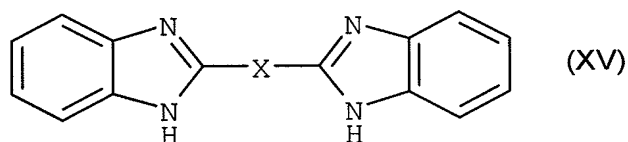
6. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 1, further comprising a radical chain transfer agent.

7. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the sensitizer comprises an optical brightening agent.

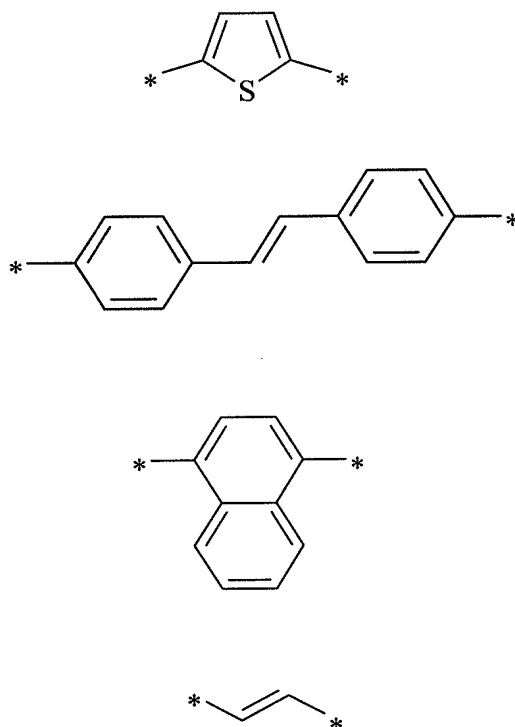
8. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 7, wherein the optical brightening agent has a structure according to one of the following formulae:







wherein X is one of the following groups, \* denoting the position of attachment in the above formulae:



and wherein one or more of the nuclei in each of the above formulae (III) to (XVII) may be independently substituted by one or more of alkyl, alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, acyloxy, carboxyl, nitrile, amino, hydroxyl, alkylsulfonyl or aminosulfonyl.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of making a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of providing a photopolymer printing plate precursor as defined in claim 1, exposing said printing plate precursor with a laser having an emission wavelength in the range from 300 to 450 nm, and processing the printing plate precursor in an aqueous alkaline developer.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of making a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of providing a photopolymer printing plate precursor as defined in claim 7, exposing said printing plate precursor with a laser having an emission wavelength in the range from 300 to 450 nm, and processing the printing plate precursor in an aqueous alkaline developer.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the exposure of the lithographic printing plate precursor is carried out at an energy density, measured on the surface of the plate, of  $100 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$  or less.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the exposure of the lithographic printing plate precursor is carried out at an energy density, measured on the surface of the plate, of  $100 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$  or less.

13. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 7, wherein the overall amount of the optical brightening agent ranges from 0.1 to 10% by weight of the photopolymerizable composition.

14. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 8, wherein the overall amount of the optical brightening agent ranges from 0.1 to 10 % by weight of the photopolymerizable composition.

15. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 3, further comprising a polyfunctional (meth)acrylate or alkyl(meth)acrylate compound as a crosslinking agent.

16. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 7, further comprising a polyfunctional (meth)acrylate or alkyl(meth)acrylate compound as a crosslinking agent.

17. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 8, further comprising a polyfunctional (meth)acrylate or alkyl(meth)acrylate compound as a crosslinking agent.

18. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 13, further comprising a polyfunctional (meth)acrylate or alkyl(meth)acrylate compound as a crosslinking agent.

19. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 14, further comprising a polyfunctional (meth)acrylate or alkyl(meth)acrylate compound as a crosslinking agent.

20. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 15, wherein the polymerizable compound comprises one or more of a urethane, a urea group or a tertiary amino group.

21. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 16, wherein the polymerizable compound contains one or more of a urethane, a urea group or a tertiary amino group.

22. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 17, wherein the polymerizable compound contains one or more of a urethane, a urea group or a tertiary amino group.

23. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 18, wherein the polymerizable compound contains one or more of a urethane, a urea group or a tertiary amino group.

24. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 19, wherein the polymerizable compound comprises one or more of a urethane, a urea group or a tertiary amino group.

25. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 20, further comprising a radical chain transfer agent.

26. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 21, further comprising a radical chain transfer agent.

27. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 22, further comprising a radical chain transfer agent.

28. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 23, further comprising a radical chain transfer agent.

29. (Previously Presented) The photopolymer printing plate precursor according to claim 24, further comprising a radical chain transfer agent.

30. (Previously Presented) A method of making a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of providing a photopolymer printing plate precursor as defined in claim 13, exposing the printing plate precursor, and processing the exposed printing plate precursor, wherein the exposure of the lithographic printing plate precursor is carried out at an energy density, measured on the surface of the plate, of  $100 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$  or less.

31. (Previously Presented) A method of making a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of providing a photopolymer printing plate precursor as defined in claim 14, exposing the printing plate precursor, and processing the exposed printing plate precursor, wherein the exposure of the lithographic printing plate precursor is carried out at an energy density, measured on the surface of the plate, of  $100 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$  or less.

32. (Previously Presented) A method of making a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of providing a photopolymer printing plate precursor as defined in claim 28, exposing the printing plate precursor, and processing the exposed printing plate precursor, wherein the exposure of the lithographic printing plate precursor is carried out at an energy density, measured on the surface of the plate, of  $100 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$  or less.

33. (Previously Presented) A method of making a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of providing a photopolymer printing plate precursor as defined in claim 29, exposing the printing plate precursor, and processing the exposed printing plate precursor, wherein the exposure of the lithographic printing plate precursor is carried out at an energy density, measured on the surface of the plate, of  $100 \mu\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$  or less.